

Orson F. Whitney

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The Overland Stage Line. A mail and passenger

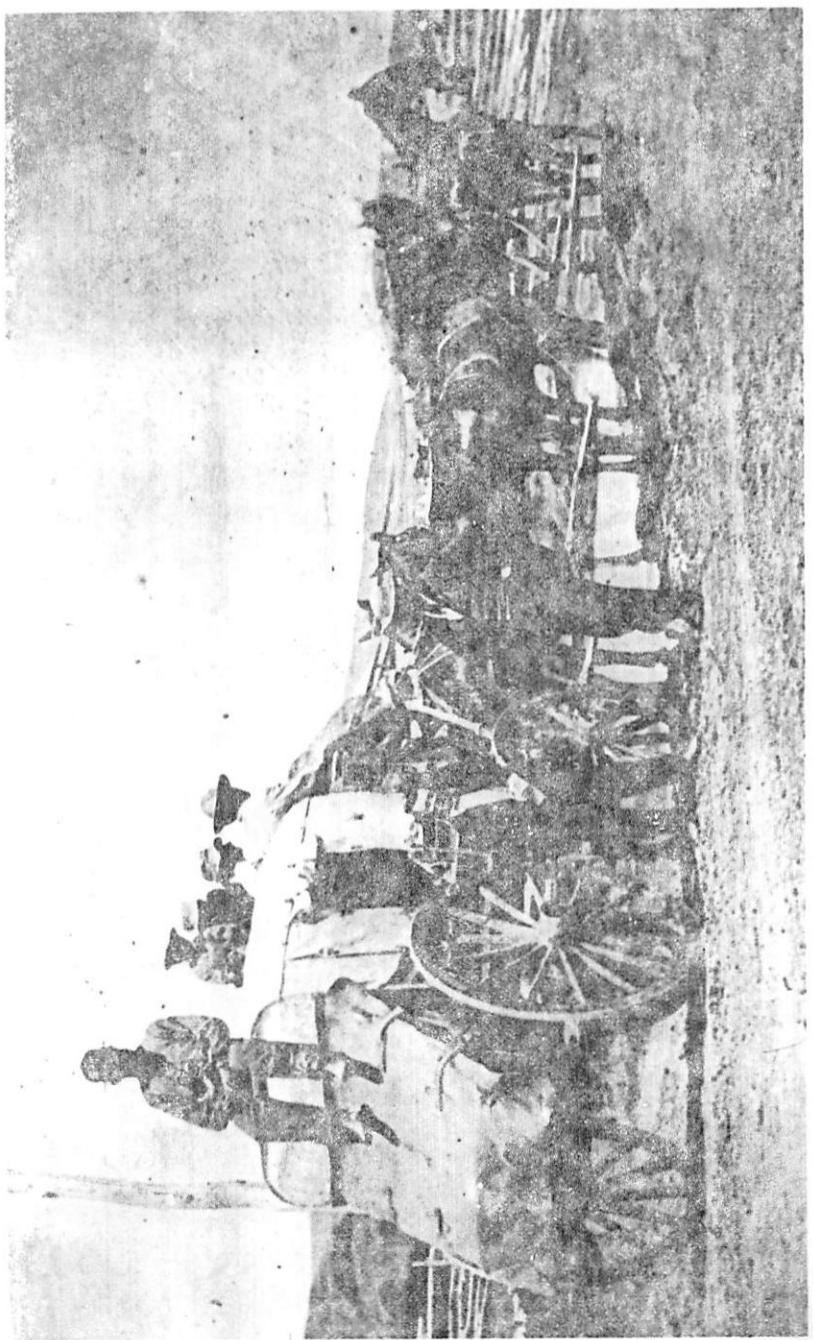


THE OVERLAND STAGE COACH.

stage line, owned by Mr. Ben Holladay, was now running between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California, with Salt Lake City as a station on the route. It had been established soon after the founding of Camp Floyd. The California gold fever was still raging, and travel to and from the mines was incessant and ever on the increase. It was by means of Ben Holladay's stage line that Horace Greeley continued his journey to the western ocean.* Soon another line of coaches was running to the Pacific. This route was from Salt Lake City through Fillmore, Parowan and Cedar City, to San Diego.

The Pony Express. To shorten the time required for bringing news across the great plains, the Pony Express was started in the spring of 1860. Its aim—which became an achievement—was to carry dispatches and important letters between Missouri and California, supplying so far as possible the need of the electric telegraph. The rate for letters was one dollar to five dollars each. Written on the thinnest paper that could be procured, the messages were carried in saddle bags or in pouches on the person of the

*Readers of Mark Twain's "Roughing It" will remember the story told of Horace Greeley and Hank Monk, the Carson City stage driver. Desirous of reaching a certain point at a certain time, Mr. Greeley urged the driver to greater speed; whereupon Mr. Monk whipped up his horses and the editor was bumped and bounced over the rocky road until he was well nigh exhausted. By coming in violent contact with the ceiling of the coach, Mr. Greeley's hat was smashed over his eyes, and at last he begged the driver to go easier. Glancing back at him, and giving his horses another swirl of the lash, Hank Monk exclaimed: "Keep your seat, Horace, and I'll get you there on time." The author of "Roughing It" makes a very humorous use of the worn-out anecdote, and then informs the reader that the incident never occurred.

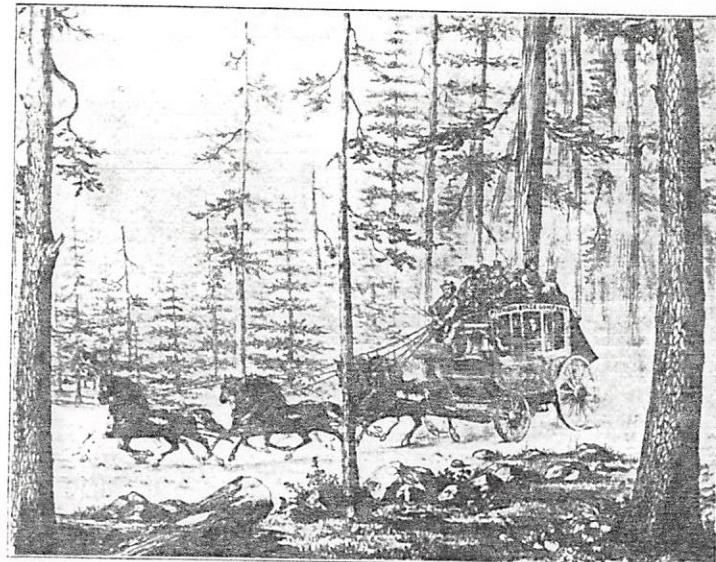


A mud wagon mail stage arriving at Kimball's Station, Utah.

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